

betterment of the Latino community, Esther Campos was there. Esther continued her own education and began earning a Ph.D., but serious family challenges made it impossible for her to finish. We hope that an honorary degree from her alma mater serves as a recognition for all she has done.

Congratulations to Esther for her great work.

Felicidades. Bien hecho.

HONORING LINDA LELIA SUSAN MORONEY

(Mrs. FLETCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Linda Lelia Susan Moroney, known to all of us as Muffie, who died recently in her home at the age of 77.

Muffie was born here in Washington, D.C. during World War II, but she was raised in and around Houston, and she was a Texan through and through. A lawyer by training and an advocate at heart, she fought to make our community, our country, and our world, a better place.

A mother, a lay leader, and a champion, Muffie worked for equality for all, dignity for all, and justice for all, especially for women; and she did so while treating everyone she met with respect, including those who saw things differently.

Her spirit will live on in her sons, Justin and Robert, in her grandchildren, and in the work she did, the groups she organized, the causes she championed, and the things that she did for all of us in Texas and for all Americans.

AMERICA STANDS WITH ISRAEL

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in light of the recent rocket attacks launched by Hamas against our close friend and ally, Israel. Those of us who have visited Israel many times know that Israelis like to say that they live in a tough neighborhood. It is a volatile region with hostile neighbors.

Israeli citizens and children live under the shadow of an everlasting threat of rocket attacks, suicide bombings, and looming violence. Israel is really the only true democracy in the region, and they have a right to defend themselves from attacks, and they must. These attacks over the last weeks are just the most recent examples. They mark the worst escalation of the conflict since 2014 resulting in the deaths of over 70 people.

As Hamas' incessant rocket barrages continue, more civilian lives are put at risk, including innocent Palestinians. They also further endanger any possibility of peace. That is their goal.

As a key ally in the region and a longtime friend of the United States, we must support Israel's right to defend itself and deescalate the violence and use our influence to do whatever we can to support our friend.

AMERICA STANDS WITH ISRAEL

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, a 63-year-old grandmother, Leah, was sitting in her house near Tel Aviv, Ido, a 5-year-old boy, was home with his big sister and his mom in a small Israeli city near Gaza. Nadine, an Arab-Israeli 10th grader, was driving with her mom and dad outside Jerusalem.

What did they have in common?

Their families are shattered and heartbroken. Leah, Ido, and Nadine were all murdered by Hamas rockets bombarding Israeli cities. In the last few days, Hamas terrorists have launched over 1,500 rockets—blowing up homes, schools, and buses.

Thankfully, Iron Dome has stopped most. Still, millions of Israelis are forced to sleep and eat in bomb shelters as red alert sirens blare across the country.

The violence is a cynical Hamas power grab using policy disputes as an excuse for terrorism.

Let me make it clear: I agree with President Joe Biden: Israel has a right to defend itself when you have thousands of rockets flying in your territory.

Hamas must end its attack, and the United States and allies must help bring calm.

□ 1730

RECOGNIZING THE YEADON POLICE DEPARTMENT

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Yeadon Police Department, which recently started the first police-community garden in the country as part of an ongoing program to develop positive relationships between police and community members.

The garden gives officers and residents an opportunity to meet in a cooperative environment, to open lines of communication and foster understanding.

Officers and residents work together in the garden throughout the growing season, and the food grown there is shared with those who work the soil, as well as area food banks. They hope to start six or seven more gardens through the community.

The mayor of Yeadon, Rohan Hepkins, says that his community has seen a decrease in crime during the

pandemic. He credits police outreach efforts, including the department's reliance on community-oriented policing and outreach to the school district and younger folks so that they look at the police not as enemies but as allies.

I commend Police Chief Anthony "Chachi" Paparo and Mayor Hepkins for their efforts to improve community policing and to ensure that everyone in the community feels safe.

SUPPORTING ITA AND ITC

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, as the co-chairman of the Congressional Steel Caucus, I was honored last week to help facilitate a letter to the Appropriations Committee. This letter expressed our support for the International Trade Administration and the International Trade Commission, which are incredibly important to the success of the American steel industry and its workforce.

The letter encouraged the committee to build on its previous efforts to provide adequate resources to the ITA and the ITC, so they may ensure timely and objective responses to trade remedy complaints and investigations.

Their work is essential to upholding our trade laws and ensuring that all American workers can compete on a level playing field.

I look forward to continuing to work with the members of the committee and the Steel Caucus to support these agencies and the strength of American steelworkers and manufacturers.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the police officers across our country.

As we commemorate National Police Week, I can't help but think about the barrage of attacks that our LEOs have come under in recent months and years.

Police officers have constantly been vilified by the media and those in left-wing politics for just simply doing their jobs. It is a job that comes with significant challenges and dangers and is often thankless, at best.

At this time, I would like to thank my colleagues here today for joining me for this Special Order to honor our heroes in blue.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our police officers all across this Nation for their work and sense of duty. They walk the beat and meet people at their worst moments, all while maintaining professionalism and a steadfastness to the rule of law.

This is a job that affects not only the individual officer but their entire family. Husbands, wives, sons, and daughters worry if their loved ones will return home from a shift. This fear is very real and very raw.

As the wife of a first responder, I, too, have felt this fear and dread as my husband, Matt, drives to a SWAT call-out.

Too often, these brave men and women in uniform don't make it back after that shift. They pay the ultimate price for their bravery, and their families are left to pick up the pieces.

Just this year alone, we have lost too many brave officers in the line of duty. I will honor them here today by saying each of their names. Their memories and bravery will be recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and etched into the archives of American history.

Their names are as follows:

Sergeant Gordon Best, Sergeant Daniel Mobley, Lieutenant Jeff Bain, Deputy Sheriff Nicholas Howell, Sergeant Randall Sims, Deputy Sheriff Jonathan Price, Officer Jay Hughes, Officer Brian Sicknick, Sergeant David Crumpler, First Sergeant Timothy Howell, Lieutenant William Gardner, Conservation Officer Steven Reighard, Officer Arturo Villegas, Officer Tyler Britt, Master Corporal Brian LaVigne, Agent Luis Marrero-Diaz, Agent Luis Salaman-Conde, Agent Eliezer Hernandez-Cartagena, Officer Melton Gore, Sergeant Frederick Cameron, Detective Sergeant Stephen Desfosses, Officer Hector Moya, Chief of Police Tony Jordan, Corporal Christine Peters, Constable Sherry Kay Langford, Lieutenant Treva Preston, Officer Alfred Jimenez, Officer Jerry Hemphill, Sergeant Edward Marcurella, Lieutenant John Reynolds, Officer Joseph Martini, Deputy Sheriff Adam Gibson, Officer Brandon Stalker, Warrants Officer Toby Keiser, Deputy Sheriff Jacinto Navarro, Officer Byron Shields, Lieutenant Robert Van Zeyl, Lieutenant Frank Arnold, Special Agent Wayne Snyder, Captain Michael Garigan, Lieutenant Juan Rafael Rivera-Padua, Deputy Sheriff Frank Gonzalez Holguin, Auxiliary Sergeant Louis Livatino, Director of Field Operations Beverly Good, Sergeant Tommy Cudd, Sergeant Jeffrey Smith, Special Agent Robert Mayer, Sergeant William Brautigam, Correctional Officer Juan Llanes, Sergeant Grace Bellamy, Lieutenant Michael Boutte, Special Agent Laura Ann Schwartzberger, Special Agent Daniel Alfin, Detention Officer Robert Perez, Deputy Sheriff Jack Gwynes, Agent Juan Rosado-Lopez, Pa-

trolman Darian Jarrott, Detective Pedro Mejia, Officer Cesar Sibonga, Deputy Sheriff Ross Dixon, Officer Vicky James, Investigator Eddie Hutchinson, Chief of Police Timothy Sheehan, Deputy Sheriff Donald Gilreath, Police Officer Mitchell Penton, Officer Genaro Guerrero, Corrections Officer Tawiwo Obele, Major Esteban Ramirez, Deputy Constable Manuel Phillipe De La Rosa, Sergeant Richard Brown, Deputy Sheriff Michael Magli, Police Officer Horacio Dominguez, Lieutenant Eugene Lasco, Officer Jasaan Lagore, Parole Officer Troy Morin, Officer Carlos Mendoza, Deputy Sheriff Thomas Albanese, Reserve Deputy Constable Martinus Mitchum, Police Officer Dominic Winum, Captain Justin Bedwell, Police Officer Jose Anzora, Corrections Officer Tracey Adams, Officer Crispin San Jose, Officer Jesse Madsen, Sergeant Barry Henderson, Deputy Sheriff Stanley Burdic, Police Officer Gary Hibbs, Border Patrol Agent Alejandro Flores-Banuelos, Police Officer Kevin Valencia, Sergeant LaShonda Owens, Police Officer Matt North, Police Officer Eric Talley, Chief of Police Fred Posavetz, Corrections Officer Robert McFarland, Senior Master Trooper Todd Hanneken, Corporal Kyle Davis, Trooper Joseph Gallagher, Sergeant Shane Owens, Reserve Deputy Sheriff James Driver, Trooper Chad Walker, Officer Luis Hernandez, Officer William Evans, Lieutenant James Kouski, Officer Brent Hall, Deputy Sheriff Joseph Gore, Deputy Sheriff Christopher Knight, Sergeant James Smith, Deputy Sheriff Thomas Barnes, Deputy Sheriff Carlos Hernandez, Border Patrol Agent Christopher Simpkins, Detention Deputy Mark Anderson, Officer Jimmy Garcia, Officer David Parde, Deputy Sheriff Terry Dyer, Deputy Sheriff Alexander Gwosdz, Officer Anastasio Tsakos, Corporal Keith Heacock, Sergeant Chris Ward, Deputy Sheriff Logan Fox, Officer Christopher Farrar, Detective Luca Benedetti, Deputy Sheriff Samuel Leonard, Deputy Sheriff Stephen Jones, and Officer Jimmy Inn.

I would also be remiss if I didn't mention our K9 officers that also gave their lives in the line of duty: K9 Figo, K9 Riley, K9 Luna, K9 Joker, K9 Kozmo, and K9 Jango.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in a moment of silence to remember these heroes.

As you can see, that is a pretty lengthy list. I hope that, even though I may have mispronounced some of their names, their families seek comfort in knowing that their names will forever be remembered.

Again, these are just some of the heroes that we have lost this year. It is May, and this list takes up four pages of paper. May we always remember their names and recognize their service in keeping law and order for our communities.

To the brave men and women who we just named: Rest easy. We've got the watch.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), a good friend and sheriff of the great city of Jacksonville.

□ 1745

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I deeply appreciate Mrs. CAMMACK having read all of those names. That is a promise that we make to these officers. I really congratulate Congresswoman CAMMACK and thank her so much for this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, this morning, as I was laying a wreath at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, I couldn't help but remember that this week, National Police Week, is really about promises made and promises kept.

These 22,000-plus officers, whose names appear at the national memorial, although they all died in different ways, they all lived for the same purpose.

They made this promise: "As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality, and justice."

Mr. Speaker, that is the first paragraph of the Law Enforcement Officer's Code of Ethics. That is a promise made by every law enforcement officer in the United States. That promise is kept every day when they put on that uniform and they go out to protect the peaceful against violence and disorder.

Last year, in 2020, 394 of those officers gave their last full measure of devotion to the communities they served after having taken that oath. They kept their promise.

During this National Police Week, we will keep our promise to them that we will never forget their names and that of their families.

Mr. Speaker, every year at this time we pause to remember their lives; not just their deaths and the way they died, but the way they lived.

This morning, I couldn't help but think of the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson as I thought about these officers. He wrote: "The purpose in life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

Those more than 22,000 names that are on those memorial walls over there, those men and women lived well. Their names will never be forgotten. Of the names on the wall at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, 113 of them are from my district.

Just this year, we will add another 394 names to that memorial wall. These officers kept their promises. Tonight, at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, we will keep our promise and remember their names.

God bless and keep these officers and their families, who are their survivors.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, former sheriff from Jacksonville, Mr. RUTHERFORD.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN), a true friend to law enforcement, a fellow Floridian, and veteran.

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Police Week when America joins our law enforcement community to honor our fallen officers.

Sadly, our police force faces unprecedented attack. Last year, 394 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty, nearly double the amount from 2019. In only one year in all of American history, 1930, were there more law enforcement deaths.

Despite these staggering losses, some in this body are seeking to defund the police, diminishing their ability to protect and defend our communities and themselves.

While we must be ever vigilant to root out the bad apples, we cannot forget the overwhelming majority who put themselves in harm's way every day and serve with honor and integrity.

I am grateful for the efforts of the excellent law enforcement officials in my district. I stand with these incredible sheriffs and chiefs and the officers they lead, and I thank them for their service on behalf of the citizens of Florida.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS), my good friend, who is also a law enforcement officer and great patriot.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, to be a police officer, it is not something we do; it is someone that we are. I was a military police officer in the Army and went on to serve for 12 years as a uniformed police officer, 12 years as a SWAT operator, and I buried far too many brothers.

There is a time in every man's heart where we have to make a decision of what we are going to do with our life that day, that week, that month, with our families, with our career, with our life.

As I reflect upon my career as a police officer prior to my congressional service, I think about the 8½ years of night shift and the exchange that my wife and I would have every evening as she returned from work and I was preparing to leave. She would have my little meal prepared, a brown bag, to take with me. And she would say: "Be safe. Come home to me." And I would say: "Don't worry about me. Worry about the other guy."

Every police officer has a little exchange like that with their loved one before they begin their shift, because we don't know if we are coming home.

We recognize that the life we have chosen to serve our fellow man is an effort somehow to become better men ourselves. It is an effort to serve a Lord that we are not quite worthy of.

I have trained or helped train many officers through the years, and they

would ask me sometimes about this section of the manual or that section of the manual, and I would always tell them the same: Your manual is 1,483 pages. Seek to be a better man, do the right thing, and you will be worthy of the job and career that you have chosen. Forget that, and you will not.

We are human. We have failed and fallen in some way, every one of us.

This can be said as well about the Members of this body. We wear a small pin upon our lapel that identifies us as Congressmen and Congresswomen. We are proud to serve and humbled to serve, and we do our best every day to be worthy of that service.

This job began with an oath. Imperfect, though, we be; varied, though, we be in our ideological perspective or our political affiliation, we do our best every day.

There are a million police officers across this country who don't have a little lapel pin. They wear a badge like this. And the mourning band upon that badge is in memory of the brothers and sisters of the thin blue line who we have lost.

It used to be a rare thing to find your mourning band and put it on your badge. Now, these days, you can't get it off. Police officers out there know what I am talking about.

So I will say, Mr. Speaker, in closing, that the journey that we are upon in this life is a chosen path that all of us embrace, for better or for worse. We attempt to become better men and women, better children of God.

Police officers are no different. I ask you to hear my heart, feel my spirit. The men and women that wear a badge deserve your respect, your love, and your support. In this special time this week, we memorialize forever those who we have lost who wear the badge.

I thank Congresswoman CAMMACK for allowing me to address the House this day. I extend my love to the thin blue line.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS), another great friend of law enforcement; the former sheriff of Fort Bend County, Texas, who knows truly what it is to be a man of the law.

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, as a 30-year law enforcement veteran, I have seen the very best of our law enforcement officers, brave men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day to protect and serve our communities.

I have seen law enforcement officers jump into flood waters to save a pet, run into a fiery crash to save an unconscious victim, resuscitate and save the life of a criminal who had just tried to shoot and kill them.

I have also seen the dangers of serving in law enforcement. Hundreds of law enforcement officers are killed every year in the line of duty across our country. In 2021, 394 names of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty were added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, right

here in Washington, D.C., and 59 of those brave men and women were from my home State of Texas.

How many people in this Chamber or watching at home can name any of the officers who died in the line of duty this year?

I would say a very small percentage, if any at all.

But how many know the name of George Floyd or Freddie Gray or Breonna Taylor?

I would say the vast majority.

What does that say about our media? What does it say about our culture?

□ 1800

I think it is a testament to just how divided our country is today, a time where some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle actually believe defunding or abolishing the police is a good idea. My friends, it is not rocket science to conclude that the society, our society is built on rule of law and it requires law enforcement.

Rather than recognize the bravery and service of the over 800,000 law enforcement officers in this country who do their job honorably, the far left has sought to demonize and defund our law enforcement, based off the actions of a few—a few—who have failed to uphold their oath.

Their hateful rhetoric has led to violence and destruction in cities across our country. We saw it in Seattle, Minneapolis, Portland. City blocks burned, businesses destroyed, and lives ruined forever. When faced with this violence in the streets, the far left doubled down on their hateful anti-law enforcement rhetoric and encouraged even more destruction.

It may come as a surprise to many, but there are over 10 million—yes, 10 million—arrests in our country every year. Most Americans never hear a word about the millions of arrests that happen without incident. And why is that? Because it doesn't sell headlines. It doesn't sell headlines, and it doesn't fit the left's narrative.

Darian Jarrott of New Mexico, Chris Ward of North Carolina, James Smith of Iowa, and Chad Walker from the great State of Texas. Know their names? I am sure you don't, because their death didn't fit the left's narrative or sell headlines. All four of them were murdered in the line of duty for just trying to protect their communities.

Are their years of service or sacrifice not worthy of remembrance or recognition? The media doesn't seem to think so. But the Republican Party, we stand with law enforcement. We support law enforcement. We celebrate law enforcement. We are the party of law enforcement.

That is why I am proud to stand here today as a 30-year law enforcement veteran during National Police Week to say to all my brothers and sisters in blue, we have got your back.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Thank you to our sheriff from the great State of Texas. I

appreciate your remarks and thank you for your service, not just to Fort Ben, but to the great State of Texas and our country. Thank you.

At this time, I yield to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS), my good friend who may be the smallest in stature in our conference but has the biggest heart.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, this is National Police Week, and it is an excellent time to say thank you to the heroic men and women who put their lives at risk every day to keep us safe.

These officers and their families have sacrificed so much to serve others that we must be doing more to keep them safe, well funded, and supported.

This past year has been challenging for all of us, but our police officers have been hit especially hard. Imagine what we have gone through with the pandemic, but being a police officer and first responder during these difficult times.

Many of my colleagues have called to reform, defund, and even abolish police departments. While I do believe that our policing system is in need of serious bipartisan and commonsense reforms, I will never support defunding or abolishing the police. Those calling for defunding or abolishment of the police as serious policy are flat out wrong.

Our communities need police to stay safe. They must be fully funded, and they deserve our respect and gratitude.

Defunding or abolishing the police would make our communities less secure and more vulnerable to criminal activity, putting all of our families at risk.

We must produce constructive ways to reform and improve our policing system, not strip departments of critical funding for training, equipment, community engagement programs, and body cameras.

To reform our police system, we should focus on real solutions, like empowering police chiefs to fire bad cops and improving police training and accountability in line with best practices, similar to the reforms I proudly supported as a State senator in Iowa.

Earlier today, I signed on as a cosponsor to the bipartisan Defund Cities that Defund the Police Act. Introduced by Representatives FITZPATRICK, GOLDEN, STAUBER, and LAMB, this piece of legislation would prevent jurisdictions that defund the police from receiving certain Federal grants, stopping specific Federal taxpayer dollars from bankrolling jurisdictions that intentionally make their communities less safe.

Under this legislation, any jurisdiction that chooses to defund the police is choosing to defund themselves of Federal assistance. Municipalities around the country that wish to defund or abolish the police will only harm their communities.

America does not need to defund or abolish the police. We need to fund and support law enforcement.

It is interesting to me and ironic that here I am in this building as a U.S. Congresswoman, and my first tour of this building and the White House was my brother, who was a Secret Service agent in this city.

We especially need to honor our fallen police officers, including Iowa State Patrol Officer Jim Smith, U.S. Capitol Police Officers Sicknick, Evans, Liebgood, Green, and Smith. We also need to honor the selfless sacrifice of Officer Goodman.

Police officers are true public servants and protectors of our communities who deserve our respect and appreciation. I am proud to back the blue this week and every week.

Thank you, Congresswoman CAMMACK, for your fierce advocacy for our police officers and for organizing tonight's Special Order.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, during this National Police Week, we have highlighted many officers who have met the call of duty with courage and unmatched service. Two such officers I would like to highlight today are from my district in the great little tiny town of High Springs, Sergeant Gary Moore and Officer Mayuly Nodarse.

On April 28, these two officers of the High Springs Police Department responded to a call about suspicious activity. Upon arriving on scene, they observed a suspect standing in the bathroom of a house with a knife and a victim yelling for help.

After these two officers gave multiple commands, they forced entry into the bathroom and found the armed suspect who was uncooperative. Based on their training and experience, they were able to disarm the suspect. Everyone on scene lived to see another day, thanks to the work and quick thinking of these officers.

For their bravery and professionalism, they have been awarded the Medal of Valor. I thank these two officers for their quick thinking and decisive action. They show us what proper training and a well-funded police force can do to keep our communities safe.

As I stand here today, I know my husband is watching, on shift, from the station. So, a quick hello to my husband Matt, and thank you. I also would like to thank my colleagues for joining me here today and a big thank you to every officer who gets up every day, puts on their vest, puts on their badge, walks out that door not knowing if they will make it home at the end of their shift. To the families, thank you for your service alongside our men and women in uniform.

As we have listed the names here today of those that we have lost this year, rest easy, know that we have to watch.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE LONG-TERM PROBLEMS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 4, 2021, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, today's Special Order hour is not just about the violence that has occurred in the last week in Israel and Palestine. It is not about the activities of the last month, including the displacement of Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah, that have been largely overlooked in this region. But, in many ways, it is about what has happened over the last year, the last decade, the last several decades that has dehumanized and violated the human rights of too many people in this important region.

No one should have to face the reality of missiles shot at them. Hamas is causing great danger to the very people it purports to want to protect in Gaza by doing so, and those missile attacks should be condemned.

But that doesn't make it a "both sides" issue. We must acknowledge and condemn the disproportionate discrimination and treatment that Palestinians face versus others in this region.

No one should suffer the loss of life, liberty, or dignity that the Palestinian people have suffered under the Netanyahu and previous administrations in Israel during the 50-year occupation of the West Bank.

When serious human rights abuses compound, such as the recent attacks on places of worship, like the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the forced removal of people from their homes, most recently in East Jerusalem, but ongoing in the West Bank for way too long, the jailing and military court trials for Palestinian children, the dehumanization of the lives of the Palestinians by having roads and entrances that are separate for some people—which all too often looks like a former South Africa, the blockade and open-air prison conditions for the people in Gaza, where food and clean water is often scarce.

When those types of human rights abuses occur, we are not just putting the lives of Palestinians and Israelis at risk, but we are also putting the United States at greater jeopardy, and eventually, that could mean the lives of men and women from the United States getting involved in a greater escalation of violence in the region, which none of us want to see.

Today, we want to talk about the very long-term problems that have been, for too long, ignored by U.S. policies in the region. Fortunately, now more and more Members of Congress